

Notice of Allowability

Application No.:

10/776,746

Examiner

Huan H. Tran

Applicant(s)

CONNOR ET AL.

Art Unit

2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 02/11/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____


Huan Tran
Primary Examiner
AU 2861

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-14 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1 and dependent claims thereof, prior art of record do not teach or suggest the limitations "a sensor and control device for determining variations in at least one operating parameter at said print head that can cause stretching of the dye transfer area relative to the two edge areas, during pressure contact of said print head with the dye transfer area and the two edge areas; and a pressure applying device connected to said sensor and control device to adjust pressure contact of said print head with the dye transfer area and two edge areas in accordance with variations that are determined via said sensor and control device, to prevent the dye transfer area from being stretched relative to the two edge areas, whereby creases will not be formed in the dye transfer area."

Similarly, claim 4 and dependent claims thereof are allowable for the reason that prior art of record do not teach or suggest the limitations "a sensor and control device for determining variations in at least one operating parameter at said print head that can cause stretching of the dye transfer area relative to the two edge areas; and a pressure applying device connected to said sensor and control device to adjust pressure contact of said print head with the dye transfer area and the two edge areas in accordance with variations that are determined via said sensor and control device, to apply pressure against the two edge areas that is greater than pressure applied against the dye transfer area, so that when said donor web take-up longitudinally tensions the dye transfer area and two edge areas the dye transfer area and two edge areas will be similarly stretched in order to prevent crease formation in the dye transfer area".

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AS to claim 9, prior art of record do not teach or suggest the limitation "determining variations in at least one operating parameter at the print head that can cause stretching of the dye transfer area relative to the two edge areas; and adjusting pressure contact of the print head with the dye transfer area and two edge areas in accordance with variations that have been determined to prevent the dye transfer area from being stretched relative to the two edge areas, whereby creases will not be formed in the dye transfer area".

As to claim 10 and dependent claims thereof, prior art do not teach or suggest the limitations "determining variations in at least one operating parameter at the print head that can cause stretching of the dye transfer area relative to the two edge areas, during pressure contact of the print head with the dye transfer area and two edge areas; and adjusting pressure contact of the print head with the dye transfer area and two edge areas in accordance with variations that have been determined, to apply pressure against the two edge areas that is greater than pressure applied against the dye transfer area, so that when the dye transfer area and two edge areas are longitudinally tensioned they will be similarly stretched in order to prevent to prevent crease formation in the dye transfer area"

Prior art to Connor does not teach or suggest adjusting the printhead pressure based on the operating parameter that can cause stretching of the dye transfer area relative to the two edge areas. See Col. 3, line 55 to Col. 4, line 10.

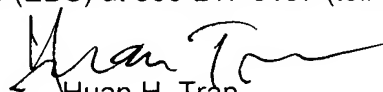
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huan H. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2261. The examiner can normally be reached on at work on W-F from 6:30 to 5; T are telework days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Talbott can be reached on (571) 272-1934. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Huan H. Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2861

hht
07/01/05